

Application No.: 09/455,807
Amendment dated August 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2004

REMARKS

The office action of June 15, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. A Request for Continued Examination has been filed with this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Interview of July 28, 2004

Applicants expressly thank the Examiner for the interview of July 28, 2004. During the interview, Applicants' representatives and the Examiner discussed the Strahorn reference, the pending independent claims and the new claims. While no agreement was reached on claims 1-30, the Examiner acknowledged that new claims 31-57 overcome the combination of Rivette and Strahorn.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Applicants respectfully request that the examiner sign and return copies of the Information Disclosure Statements discussed at the Examiner Interview held on July 28, 2004. Copies of the Information Disclosure Statements were provided at the Examiner Interview and the stamped postcards demonstrating receipt by the PTO were faxed to the examiner on July 28, 2004.

Claims

In the prior Action, claims 1-30 were pending. Claims 1-30 remain pending and claims 31-57 are added. Claim 25 has been amended to correct a grammatical error. No new matter has been added.

Pursuant to the Examiner Interview conducted July 28, 2004, the Examiner and Applicants agree that new claims 31-57 are patentable over the combination of the Rivette (U.S. Pat. No. 6,389,434) and Strahorn (U.S. Pat. No. 5,933,140) references.

As to the remaining claims, claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the combination of Rivette and Strahorn. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites:

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"navigating directly to said at least one other annotation of said at least one other object."

The Examiner notes that Rivette navigates between sub-notes via objects, not directly as claimed. The Examiner cites Strahorn to show "efficient navigation of help sub-notes by direct navigation between the sub-notes" and referring to Figure 3 and column 4, lines 8-30 and 45-59.

However, Strahorn does not show the navigation of sub-notes as suggested by the Examiner. Rather, the navigation (by forward and back buttons 305 (and home button 302) relates instead to navigation of "active page display section 304". The active page display section shows the navigation of a standard HTML page, see column 3, lines 27-32, column 4, lines 4-8, and column 8, lines 8-14. In short, the navigation controls relate to the navigation between web pages, not annotations or notes relating to web pages. Applied to Rivette, the combination would be then the navigation of objects from Rivette by control buttons from Strahorn. As the combination fails to teach or suggest all recitations of claim 1, claim 1 is allowable over the combination.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least these reasons.

Claim 13 recites, *inter alia*:

"navigating directly to said at least one other annotation of said at least one other object."

For the reasons set forth above, the combination fails to teach or suggest claim 13 as amended.

Amended claim 25 recites, *inter alia*:

"said processor permitting navigation directly to said at least one other annotation of said at least one other object..."

For the reasons set forth above, the combination fails to teach or suggest claim 25 as amended.

Claim 28 recites, *inter alia*:

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"said third data field being accessed when a processor directly navigates to annotations stored in said second data field."

For the reasons set forth above, the combination fails to teach or suggest claim 28 as amended.

The claims dependent on claims 13, 25 and 28 are believed allowable for similar reasons as set forth above.

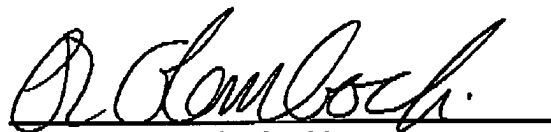
The new claims are allowable for related reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels, however, that further amendment and/or discussion may be helpful in facilitating prosecution of the case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 23, 2004

By:


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